

# An Informational Guide for Prospective Youth Council Members



## **Workforce Investment Board**

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Workforce Investment Network

[www.csb-win.org](http://www.csb-win.org)

## Introduction: What is a Youth Council?

The Youth Council is a feature of the workforce development system mandated by the Workforce Investment Act. It provides a unique opportunity for a local community to create, through a common vision, a system of activities and services enabling youth to be successful in education and the workplace, and to become leaders in their community.

Over 600 Youth Councils across the nation have established local youth development systems and making youth policy recommendations to the local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs)

The San Bernardino County WIB has been operating its Youth Council since the inception of the Workforce Investment Act.

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### What does the Youth Council do?

Through this common community vision, the Youth Council becomes actively engaged in planning and managing youth funds received in their local area under WIA as well as:

1. Build community awareness and demonstrate leadership and addressing key development, education and employment issues effecting youth;
2. Facilitate coordination of youth activities in the community;
3. Influence and leverage other community youth funds and services; and
4. Address the specific needs of youth in the community.

### Who are members of the Youth Council?

Youth Council members are volunteer men and women who have a special interest or expertise in youth policy. Under the Act, the membership of the Youth Council must include:

1. Members of the local WIB who have special interest or expertise in youth policy;
2. Members who represent service agencies, such as juvenile justice and local law enforcement agencies;
3. Members who represent local public housing authorities;
4. Parents of eligible youth seeking assistance under WIA;
5. Individuals representing organizations that have experience relating to youth activities; and
6. Members who represent Job Corps Centers, if a center is located in the local area.

While the Act requires certain representation, it also leaves considerable discretion to the local WIB and local elected officials to determine the appropriate additional members needed to create a Youth Council that best represents the community and one that will be successful in accomplishing the goals of the Youth Council. For example, the San Bernardino County WIB includes youth members as well as representatives from business, education, Employment Development Department , labor and community based organizations. There is no mandated size, but the San Bernardino County WIB Youth Council maintains 23 members. Members are appointed to the Youth Council by the local WIB.

### What are the Youth Council's roles and responsibilities?

The primary responsibility of the Youth Council is to provide expertise in youth policy and to assist the San Bernardino County WIB.

1. Create and implement the strategic plan using labor market information and other community data;
2. Craft the parameters for a Request for Proposal to direct how local WIA youth services are to be delivered. Recommend WIA youth providers to the WIA, and conduct oversight;
3. Broaden the youth employment and training focus in the community to incorporate a youth development perspective; and
4. Promote and market goals, activities and accomplishments of the Youth Council.

### Is there a mechanism for youth input?

Absolutely. Youth input is a vital component in the development of a system that most directly affects our youth. Efforts will be ongoing to ensure the active participation of the youth members, as well as that of parents.

### What is the Workforce Investment Act?

Briefly the Workforce Investment Act is the nation's principle workforce development legislation, replacing the Job Training Partnership Act. It provides funds to address the employment and training needs of adults, dislocated workers, and youth. The youth program is designed to create local youth systems that are closely linked to the labor market and provide youth with a comprehensive service strategy based on individualized assessment. The Youth program blends youth development activities with employment and training activities.

Out job is your future.....

### Why are Youth Councils important?

Because communities need a youth development system and an economic and workforce development strategy that will attract and retain employers and prepare a skilled workforce.

### Accept the challenge?

Youth council members are called upon to service as advocates for local area youth and to ensure the provision and coordination of workforce training services.

### Apply for the San Bernardino County WIB Youth Council!

Please contact Stephanie Soto, WIB/YC Staff Aide, 215 N. D Street, Suite 301, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0041, (909) 381-7922, [ssoto@wdd.sbcounty.gov](mailto:ssoto@wdd.sbcounty.gov) for information on current vacancies.

**This WIA Title-I financially assisted program or activity is an equal opportunity employer/program.**

**Federal Government  
Workforce Investment Act  
State WIB  
San Bernardino County WIB  
Youth Council**

